

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 10-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weissler (U.S. Patent No. 2,507,657) or Servanty (U.S. Patent No. 5,100,080). In addition, claims 3-5, 7-9, 16 and 20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of original claims 2 and 4. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include all of the limitations of original claims 19 and 20. The Examiner has indicated that independent claims 1 and 18, as so amended, would be allowable. Further, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite a gear assembly and the components thereof, to include recitations for a blade gear, a blade axis, and a center gear. Amended claim 11 now also requires a means for moving the center gear relative to the blade axis to control the orientation of the airfoil blades. Support for the amendments to claim 11 is found in claim 13 and in the specification on page 5, lines 17-24. Claims 2, 4, 13, 19 and 20, which set forth the limitations now included in amended independent claims 1, 11 and 18 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended by deleting limitations now presented in amended independent claim 11. In addition, claims 3, 5-8, 10 and 14 have been amended to depend from a still pending claim.

Amendments, as indicated above, are presented herein to point out the features

which distinguish the present invention over the cited art, to improve the readability of the claims, and to place the application in a condition for allowance. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 14-18 remain pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 11, 12, 18 and 19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weissler (U.S. Patent No. 2,507,657). Further, claims 1, 2, 6, 10-15 and 17-19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Servanty (U.S. Patent No. 5,100,080).

In response, as indicated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of original claims 2 and 4. In addition, independent claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of original claims 19 and 20. The Examiner has indicated that independent claims 1 and 18, as so amended, would be allowable.

Also in response to the Office Action, independent claim 11 has been amended as indicated above. The structure of the gear assembly and its operation for controlling the vehicle, as now presented in amended claim 11, are not disclosed in either reference. Specifically, neither reference either teaches or suggests a center gear that is moveable to control the orientation of the airfoil blades. Moreover, the amendments presented in amended claim 11 bring it into line with the other amended independent claims (i.e. claims 1 and 18) which the Examiner has indicated are allowable.

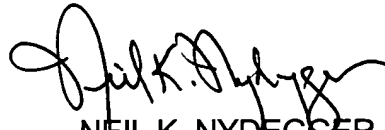
Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully contends that the basis for rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been overcome. Further, since claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claims 1, 11 or 18, Applicant respectfully contends they are allowable as well.

The references cited by the Examiner, but not relied on for the rejection of claims, have been noted.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 14-18 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 619-688-1300 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



NEIL K. NYDEGGER
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 30,202

NYDEGGER & ASSOCIATES
348 Olive Street
San Diego, California 92103
Telephone: (619) 688-1300